

Summary of the meeting with ECOSAFIMED associates

ECOSAFIMED project associates are international, national and local entities involved in the management of fishery resources and conservation of the biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea. They aim at protecting and improving the Mediterranean marine environment thus contributing to sustainable development. They have engaged from the beginning of ECOSAFIMED Project in a collaboration process, exchanging information and experiences while contributing to the EU Directives and to the Barcelona Convention.

Project associates include national and international institutions namely the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM-FAO), the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Environment in Spain, the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Tunisia (DGPA), the Institute for Coastal Marine Environment (IAMC) in Messina (Italy), the cooperative of fishermen of Patti (SOC. COOP. PESCATORI MARINA) (Messina), the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Being a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative at the Mediterranean Basin level, the ENPI ECOSAFIMED project organized a collaborative workshop with its multiple associates, on 23 July 2015, at the Marine Science Institute of Spain's Scientific Research Council (ICM-CSIC) in Barcelona.

The main objective of this meeting was to exchange with the associates the preliminary results of the project in supporting an artisanal fishing activity compatible with a good environmental status of benthic communities.



ECOSAFIMED project partners and associates attending the meeting held at the Marine Science Institute of Spain's Scientific Research Council, 23 July 2015, Spain

Sonia Castañeda, Director of Biodiversity Foundation, introduced the session. Following her, the Director of ICM-CSIC Albert Palanques welcomed all participants to the headquarters of ICM-CSIC and enhanced the importance of potential synergies. Mr Víctor Gutiérrez the project director introduced the ECOSAFIMED project to the audience, and then a more detailed presentation, including preliminary results, was made by the scientific coordinator David Díaz, Marzia Bo (Italian coordinator) and Gaamour Adel (Tunisian coordinator).

Later, associates expressed their full collaboration with partners to support and disseminate project results, in particular the elaboration of sound and scientific-based management guidelines, and GIS maps, considering the high potential for project impact and replicability among other public institutions and fishermen at Mediterranean basin and global level.

Following is a summary of the associates' opinions about ECOSAFIMED project.

Mr Nicola Ferri, Legal and Institutional Officer at the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

The work that has been carried out within ECOSAFIMED is extremely important for the GFCM. In fact, the GFCM is currently organizing a Regional Conference on "Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea"

that will take place in Algeria (March 2016). This Conference is conceived to have a pragmatic approach to describe artisanal fisheries challenges and tackle development opportunities of the sector; with this in mind it was decided to carry out and present the results of selected case studies across the region at the Conference. Indeed this is the same approach of ECOSAFIMED. The above-mentioned conference will be structured in 5 panels. The GFCM, with the support of the FAO regional projects AdriaMed and MEDSUDMED, is responsible for the technical contents of Panel 1: Supporting the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea under the Blue Growth perspective. The two main objectives of this Panel are:

- Identifying socio-economics opportunities for the sustainable development of small-scale fisheries (also in light of the low negative impact of traditional artisanal fishing on benthic communities).
- Propose a set of recommendations to increase the sustainability of the artisanal fisheries addressed to national and regional/international governmental bodies

We find the objectives of the GFCM Panel totally compatible and overlapping with those of the ECOSAFIMED expected. The results of ECOSAFIMED could therefore enrich the audience and answer to our questions, together with the results of other case studies being developed by the GFCM in the Mediterranean area.

Mr Daniel Cebrián, officer in charge of the conservation of biodiversity in marine environment at Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)

The project is very useful in the sense that it tries to identify the real impact of artisanal fisheries in the marine environment generally, and in six areas in the Mediterranean specifically. This impact is different than the one caused by the industrial fisheries. Besides, artisanal fishermen have closer contact with the environment and they seem more interested in the sustainability of their activity. On the other hand, this project can teach us how the management of coastal areas could be better done in connection with artisanal fishers. The challenge is that fishermen themselves agree on adopting management measures that could be at the end for their benefit.

Mrs Puri Canals, chairwomen at the Mediterranean Network of Marine Protected Areas (MedPAN)

MedPAN is actually working into an approach to support the managers of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean to improve their capacity for management.

I believe that artisanal fishermen are natural allies for nature conservation. MedPan is very interested in ECOSAFIMED project because initially there is a huge potential for collaboration between people that manage marine resources (specifically MPA) and fishermen. In fact there is a need to identify tools that could be applied in a scientific and independent way to evaluate the impact of artisanal fisheries on the benthic ecosystem. ECOSAFIMED is providing useful results such as indicators of impact and fishing management guidelines. First MedPAN could help transferring this knowledge to its multiple MPA Managers, in 18 countries around the Mediterranean, so they can test it in their areas to find a better way to collaborate with artisanal fishermen. Second, it can collect and follow-up the results of the application of these recommendations.

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Mr Daniel Cebrián (UNEP/MAP), Mr Nicola Ferri (GFCM) and Mrs Puri Canals being interviewed after the associate meeting held at the Marine Science Institute of Spain's Scientific Research Council, 23 July 2015, Spain

Mr Alain Jeudy, Marine Programme Conservation Manager at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The role of artisanal fisheries in the Mediterranean is a key issue due to its socioeconomic and cultural importance. The IUCN Center for the Mediterranean Cooperation has been interested in collaborating with ECOSAFIMED for the purpose of reconciling artisanal fisheries and marine ecosystem conservation. I am confident about this win-win cooperation. ECOSAFIMED has done an uncommon approach involving researchers, national administration and fishermen, to find together solutions for a sustainable

fishing. The dialogue is a challenge because some options are more suitable than others for each different group. IUCN can benefit this project considering its past similar experience with fishermen, additionally, at the end, the best way to manage a protected area is through a full involvement of fishermen. In the other way, ECOSAFIMED along with other partners local, regional, sub-regional national, at Mediterranean or international level are helping IUCN by contributing to more conservation.

Mrs Adriana Profeta, representative of the Cooperative of Fishermen in Patti Marina (CPM)-Italy

I represent one of the two Italian ECOSAFIMED associates. The Gulf of Patti is one of the project's study area, and is characterised by an important artisanal fleet. As a trawl banned area, local fishermen are involved in several projects ranging from ecosystem conservation to promoting local traditions, cuisine and environment with private and public partners. Some of the fishermen work even as environmental educators in schools, or making daily cruise on fishing boats with tourists.

ECOSAFIMED outputs like maps would help local fishermen to better perform their fishing activities and avoiding loss of their gears. Moreover, as Cape Milazzo is proposed as Marine Protected Area, the contribution of ECOSAFIMED could be useful to leverage the proposal of this new protected area.

Mrs Paola Rinelli, Researcher at the National Centre of Research – Institute for the Coastal Marine Environment (IAMC-CNR) - Italy

The Institute for the Coastal Marine Environment carries national and international researches in stock assessment, ecosystem management and bioeconomic sustainability of technologies in fisheries. RITMARE Project, is the leading national marine research project coordinated by the IAMC-CNR. The project aims at fostering the elaboration of strategies, management decisions and new technologies for a sustainable fishing. In this sense, numerous synergies exist between RITMARE and ECOSAFIMED. In fact the dissemination of ECOSAFIMED project results especially GIS maps and ROV videos of benthic communities of cap of Milazzo and Pontine archipelago. The ECOSAFIMED outputs will be a rich asset to be used for the project RITMARE.



Mr Alain Jeudy (IUCN), Mrs Adriana Profeta (CPM), Mrs Paola Rinelli (IAMC), and Mrs Raquel Palomeque (Biodiversity Foundation) at the associate meeting held at the Marine Science Institute of Spain's Scientific Research Council, 23 July 2015, Spain

Mrs Meryem Cherif, Project Manager in the Regional Activities Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC)-Spain

Acting as SCP/RAC focal point for Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in the Mediterranean of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, I believe ECOSAFIMED objectives represent a common challenge with those of UNEP/MAP. In fact, EcAp refers to a specific process to achieving the good environmental status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast. This process aims to achieve GES through informed management decisions, based on integrated quantitative assessment and monitoring of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean.

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ECOSAFIMED Events

ECOSAFIMED took part in the Annual Science Conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) held on 21 – 25 September 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark

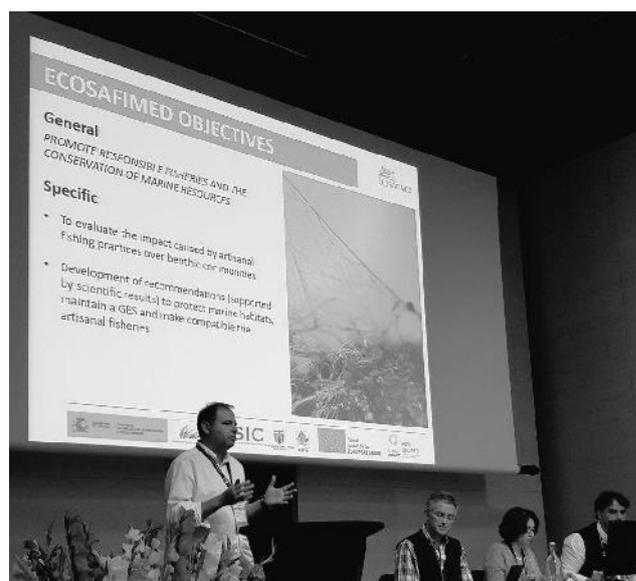
The ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) is a chance for members of ICES countries to come together, and for the ICES to showcase and share its scientific knowledge with the global marine community. One of the new themes for this year was "Small Scale Fisheries, in a session named: "Small-scale fisheries (SSF) under data-limited scenarios". This topic addressed some of the key ecological, socioeconomic, and institutional dimensions of the problems related to data-limited SSFs, in terms of monitoring, assessment, management and governance.

Within this context ECOSAFIMED project encompasses exactly this very issue. David Díaz Viñolas, the scientific coordinator of ECOSAFIMED presented the project on September 24th in the Sankt Hans Torv hall at the DGI Byen in Copenhagen.

He introduced the objectives of the project, the methodologies used and preliminary results obtained.

Besides, he took the opportunity to explain the ECOSAFIMED poster titled “New practices to improve the conservation status of the benthic communities in small-scale fisheries”.

During the conference the project results, although preliminary, were well received by an audience of 90 people. Some researchers are also considering implementing ECOSAFIMED experimental methodology in their own area and research institutions, and for a larger list of target species.



David Diaz, presenting ECOSAFIMED project on September 24th at the Annual Science Conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in Copenhagen, Denmark

For more information

Webpage

<http://ecosafimed.eu/>

Contact us

The 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). The Programme objective is to promote the sustainable and harmonious cooperation process at the Mediterranean Basin level by dealing with the common challenges and enhancing its endogenous potential. It finances cooperation projects as a contribution to the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the Mediterranean region. The following 14 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria (participation currently suspended), and Tunisia. The Joint Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French. (www.enpicbmed.eu).

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its border.

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